AMENDMENT TO THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (cancelled)

2. (cancelled)

3. (cancelled)

4. (cancelled)

5. (amended) The compound of claim 21 ~~1~~, and physiologically acceptable salts thereof, wherein R4 is ~~comprises~~ a phenyl ring linked to a terminal aromatic ~~unsaturated~~ ring having 5 ring members and 4 nitrogen atoms as ring members.

6. (cancelled)

7. (cancelled)

8. (cancelled)

9. (cancelled)

10. (cancelled)

11. (amended) The compound of claim 21, ~~1~~ wherein:
A is a direct bond;
B is N;
R1 is ~~comprises~~ a phenyl ring substituted with 0 to 3 halogen atoms;

R2 is ~~comprises~~ piperidine; and

R4 is -Phenyl-Z ~~comprises~~ [[–T–$(CH_2)_n$–Z]],

~~n comprises an integer from 0 to about 7,~~

~~T comprises a carbocyclic ring having 3 to about 8 ring members, an unsaturated ring having 3 to about 8 carbon atoms as ring members, a heterocyclic ring having 3 to about 8 ring members, a heteroaromatic ring having 5 to about 8 ring members, a bicyclic ring, a heterobicyclic ring, a tricyclic ring, a heterotricyclic ring, a polycyclic ring or a heteropolycyclic ring,~~

Z is ~~comprises a carbocyclic ring having about 4 to about 7 ring members, a heterocyclic ring having about 4 to about 7 ring members, an aromatic ring having about 5 to about 7 ring members,~~ a heteroaromatic ring having about 5 to about 7 ring members, ~~a bicyclic ring, a~~ an aromatic heterobicyclic ring, ~~a polycyclic ring, a~~ an aromatic heteropolycyclic ring; or any above group substituted on at least one available ring atom by an alkyl group; ~~or any above group substituted on at least one available ring nitrogen atom by a benzyl group, a substituted benzyl group, an alkoxybenzyl group, a substituted alkoxybenzyl group, a benzhydryl group or a substituted benzhydryl group;~~ and wherein the connecting point between the Phenyl [[-$(CH_2)_n$-]] group and the Z group can be any available ring carbon atom or any available ring nitrogen atom.

12. (cancelled)

13. (amended) A pharmaceutical composition for an individual or animal comprising a therapeutically effective amount of at least one compound of claim 21 ~~1~~ in isolated and purified form or a physiologically acceptable salt thereof and further comprises at least one member selected from an excipient, a vehicle, an adjuvant, a flavoring, a colorant, or a preservative.

14. (cancelled)

15. (cancelled)

16. (cancelled)

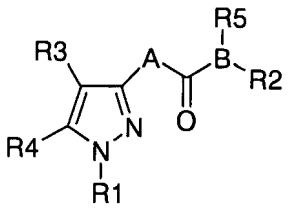
17. (cancelled)

18. (cancelled)

19. (cancelled)

20. (cancelled)

21. (new) A compound of formula I below, and physiologically acceptable salts thereof, comprising:



I

wherein:

A is a direct bond;

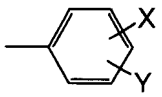
B is N;

R1 is –Z;

Z is an aromatic ring having about 5 to about 7 ring members or an aromatic ring having about 5 to about 7 ring members substituted on at least one

available ring atom by an alkyl group; and wherein the connecting point between the $-(CH_2)_n-$ group and the Z group can be any available ring carbon atom; or

Z is a 6 member aromatic ring or a substituted 6 member aromatic ring; and wherein the connecting point between the $-(CH_2)_n-$ group and the Z group can be any available ring carbon atom; or

Z is 

wherein X and Y are each independently selected from H, halogen, N_3, NCS, CN, NO_2, NX_1X_2, OX_3, OAc, O-acyl, O-aroyl, NH-acyl, NH-aroyl, CHO, CF_3, $COOX_3$, SO_3H, $SO_2NX_1X_2$, $CONX_1X_2$, alkoxy, alkylmercapto, alkylamino, di-alkylamino, alkylsulfinyl, alkylsulfonyl or (when Z is a structure having two adjacent carbon atoms methylene dioxy,

X_1 and X_2 are each independently selected from H or alkyl, or

X_1 and X_2 together are part of a heterocyclic ring having about 4 to about 7 ring members and optionally one additional heteroatom selected from O, N or S, or

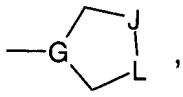
X_1 and X2 together are part of an imide ring having about 5 to about 6 members,

X_3 is selected from H, alkyl, hydroxyloweralkyl or alkyl-NX_1X_2,

X_4 is selected from H or alkyl;

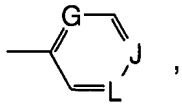
R2 is selected from a carbocyclic ring having about 4 to about 7 members, a heterocyclic ring having about 4 to about 7 members, an aromatic ring having about 5 to about 7 ring members, a heteroaromatic ring having about 5 to about 7 members, a bicyclic ring, a heterobicyclic ring, a tricyclic ring, a heterotricyclic ring, a polycyclic ring

or a heteropolycyclic ring; or

R2 is 

,

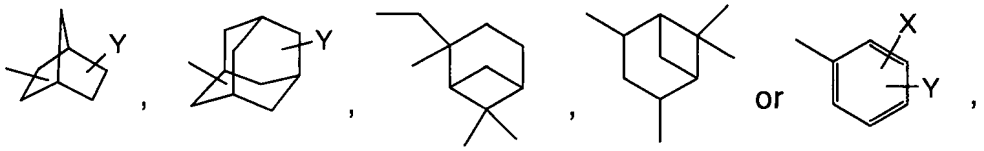
wherein G is selected from CH or N, and L and J are each independently selected from $(CH_2)_n$, O, NH or S, n is an integer from 0 to about 7; or

R2 is 

,

wherein G, L and J are each independently selected from CH or N; or

R2 is selected from



, , , or ,

wherein X and Y are each independently selected from H, halogen, N_3, NCS, Ph (phenyl), CN, NO_2, NX_1X_2, OX_3, OAc, O-acyl, O-aroyl, NH-acyl, NH-aroyl, CHO, CF_3, $COOX_3$, SO_3H, $SO_2NX_1X_2$, $CONX_1X_2$, alkyl, alcohol, alkoxy, alkylmercapto, alkylamino, di-alkylamino, alkylsulfinyl or alkylsulfonyl,

X_1 and X_2 are each independently selected from H or alkyl, or

X_1 and X_2 together are part of a heterocyclic ring having about 4 to about 7 ring members and optionally a second heteroatom selected from O, N or S, or

X_1 and X2 together are part of an imide ring having about 5 to about 6 members,

X_3 is selected from H, alkyl, hydroxyloweralkyl or alkyl-NX_1X_2; or

R2 is selected from a carbocyclic ring having 6 ring atoms fused to a heterocyclic ring having from 5 to 7 ring atoms, a carbocyclic ring having 6 ring atoms fused to a

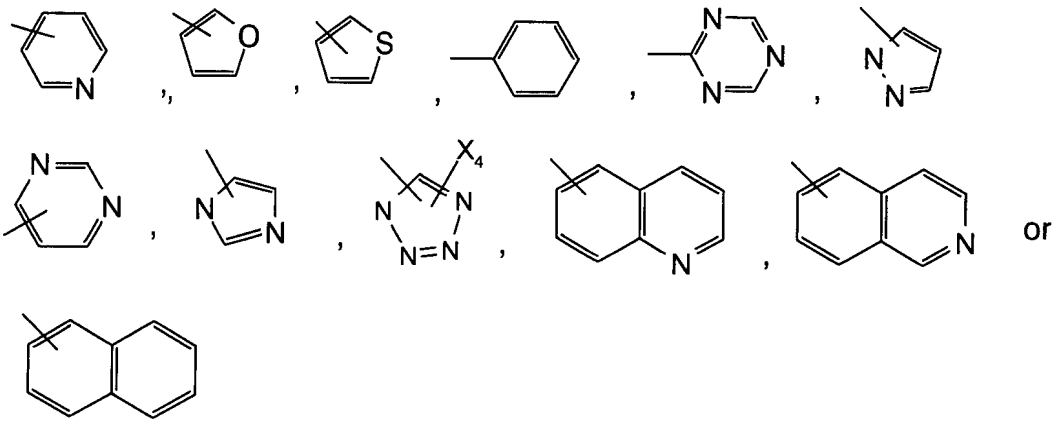
heteroaromatic ring having from 5 to 7 ring atoms, a heterocyclic ring having 6 ring atoms fused to a heterocyclic ring having from 5 to 7 ring atoms, an heterocyclic ring having 6 ring atoms fused to a heteroaromatic ring having from 5 to 7 ring atoms, an aromatic ring having 6 ring atoms fused to a heterocyclic ring having from 5 to 7 ring atoms, an aromatic ring having 6 ring atoms fused to a heteroaromatic ring having from 5 to 7 ring atoms, a heteroaromatic ring having 6 ring atoms fused to a heterocyclic ring having from 5 to 7 ring atoms or a heteroaromatic ring having 6 ring atoms fused to a heteroaromatic ring having from 5 to 7 ring atoms;

R3 is CN, CH_3 or CH_2OH;

R4 is –Phenyl–Z,

Z is selected from an aromatic ring having about 5 to about 7 ring members, a heteroaromatic ring having about 5 to about 7 ring members, an aromatic bicyclic ring, an aromatic heterobicyclic ring, an aromatic polycyclic ring, an aromatic heteropolycyclic ring; or any above group substituted on at least one available ring atom by an alkyl group; and wherein the connecting point between the $-(CH_2)_n-$ group and the Z group can be any available ring carbon atom or any available ring nitrogen atom; or

Z is selected from



wherein X_4 is selected from H or alkyl; and

R5 is H or alkyl;

with the provisos that:

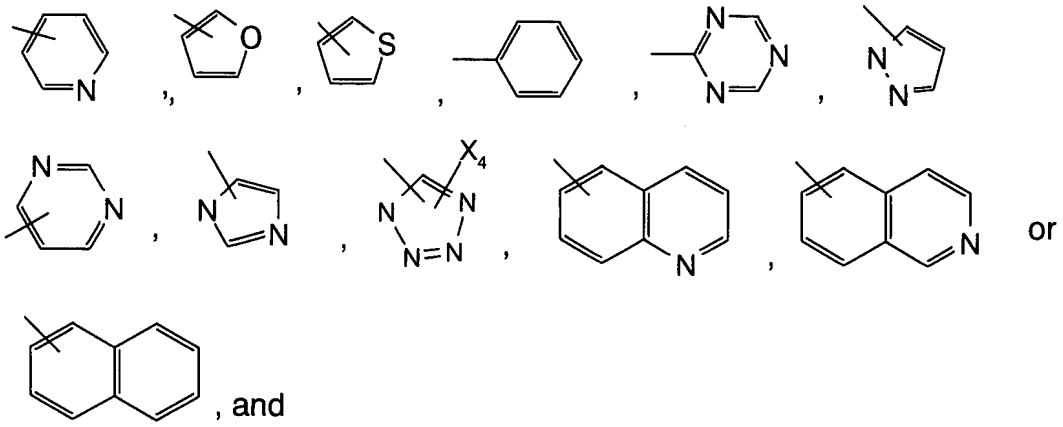
when A is a direct bond and B is N then R1 cannot be H;

when A is a direct bond and B is N and R5 is hydrogen and R2 has a nitrogen directly connected to the nitrogen of the amide at the 3-position of pyrazole ring, then R4 can not be a phenyl ring or a phenyl ring having one to three substitutions selected from halogen, trifluoromethyl, 1-pyrrolidinyl, 1-piperidinyl, 4-morpholinyl, 1-piperazinyl, lower-alkyl substituted 1-pyrrolidinyl, lower-alkyl substituted 1-piperidinyl, lower-alkyl substituted 4-morpholinyl, and lower-alkyl substituted 1-piperazinyl.

22. (new) The compound of claim 21 wherein R4 is –Phenyl–Z and Z is selected from a heteroaromatic ring having about 5 to about 7 ring members, an aromatic heterobicyclic ring, an aromatic heteropolycyclic ring; or any above group substituted on at least one available ring atom by an alkyl group; and wherein the connecting point between the Phenyl group and the Z group can be any available ring carbon atom or any available ring nitrogen atom.

23. (new) The compound of claim 21 wherein R4 is –Phenyl–Z,

Z is selected from



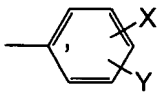
or

, and

X_4 is H or alkyl.

24. (new) The compound of claim 21 wherein R1 is –Z, and

Z is a 6 member aromatic ring or a substituted 6 member aromatic ring; and wherein the connecting point between the $-(CH_2)_n-$ group and the Z group can be any available ring carbon atom.

25. (new) The compound of claim 21 wherein R1 is 

wherein X and Y are each independently selected from H, halogen, N_3, NCS, CN, NO_2, NX_1X_2, OX_3, OAc, O-acyl, O-aroyl, NH-acyl, NH-aroyl, CHO, CF_3, $COOX_3$, SO_3H, $SO_2NX_1X_2$, $CONX_1X_2$, alkoxy, alkylmercapto, alkylamino, di-alkylamino, alkylsulfinyl, alkylsulfonyl or (when Z is a structure having two adjacent carbon atoms methylene dioxy,

X_1 and X_2 are each independently selected from H or alkyl, or

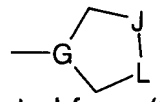
X_1 and X_2 together are part of a heterocyclic ring having about 4 to about 7 ring members and optionally one additional heteroatom selected from O, N or S, or

X_1 and X2 together are part of an imide ring having about 5 to about 6 members,

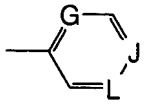
X_3 is selected from H, alkyl, hydroxyloweralkyl or alkyl-NX_1X_2, and

X_4 is selected from H or alkyl.

26. (new) The compound of claim 21 wherein R2 is selected from a carbocyclic ring having about 4 to about 7 members, a heterocyclic ring having about 4 to about 7 members, an aromatic ring having about 5 to about 7 ring members, a heteroaromatic ring having about 5 to about 7 members, a bicyclic ring, a heterobicyclic ring, a tricyclic ring, a heterotricyclic ring, a polycyclic ring or a heteropolycyclic ring.

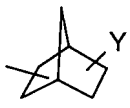
27. (new) The compound of claim 21 wherein R2 is 

, and G is selected from CH or N, and L and J are each independently selected from $(CH_2)_n$, O, NH or S, n is an integer from 0 to about 7.

28. (new) The compound of claim 21 wherein R2 is 

, and G, L and J are each independently selected from CH or N.

29. (new) The compound of claim 21 wherein R2 is selected from



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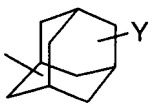

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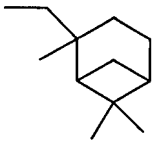
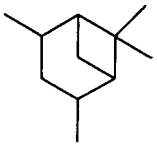
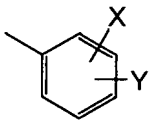

,

or


, and

X and Y are each independently selected from H, halogen, N_3, NCS, Ph (phenyl), CN, NO_2, NX_1X_2, OX_3, OAc, O-acyl, O-aroyl, NH-acyl, NH-aroyl, CHO, CF_3, $COOX_3$, SO_3H, $SO_2NX_1X_2$, $CONX_1X_2$, alkyl, alcohol, alkoxy, alkylmercapto, alkylamino, di-alkylamino, alkylsulfinyl or alkylsulfonyl,

X_1 and X_2 are each independently selected from H or alkyl, or

X_1 and X_2 together are part of a heterocyclic ring having about 4 to about 7 ring members and optionally a second heteroatom selected from

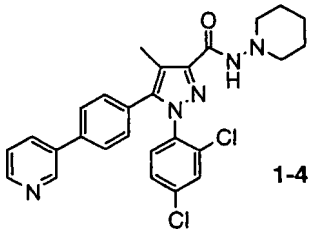
O, N or S, or

X_1 and X2 together are part of an imide ring having about 5 to about 6 members,

X_3 is selected from H, alkyl, hydroxyloweralkyl or alkyl-NX_1X_2.

30. (new) The compound of claim 21 wherein R2 is selected from a carbocyclic ring having 6 ring atoms fused to a heterocyclic ring having from 5 to 7 ring atoms, a carbocyclic ring having 6 ring atoms fused to a heteroaromatic ring having from 5 to 7 ring atoms, a heterocyclic ring having 6 ring atoms fused to a heterocyclic ring having from 5 to 7 ring atoms, an heterocyclic ring having 6 ring atoms fused to a heteroaromatic ring having from 5 to 7 ring atoms, an aromatic ring having 6 ring atoms fused to a heterocyclic ring having from 5 to 7 ring atoms, an aromatic ring having 6 ring atoms fused to a heteroaromatic ring having from 5 to 7 ring atoms, a heteroaromatic ring having 6 ring atoms fused to a heterocyclic ring having from 5 to 7 ring atoms or a heteroaromatic ring having 6 ring atoms fused to a heteroaromatic ring having from 5 to 7 ring atoms.

31. (new) The compound of claim 21, and physiologically acceptable salts thereof, selected from one of the following structures: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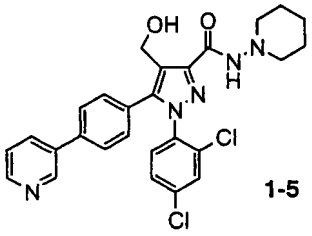
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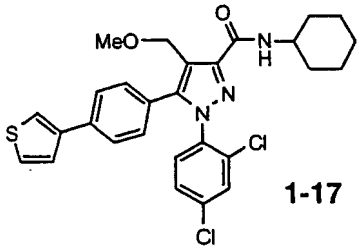
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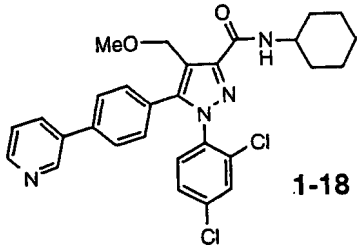
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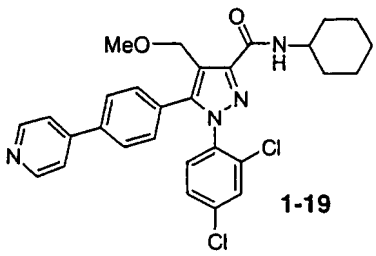
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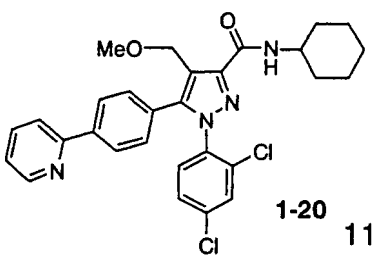
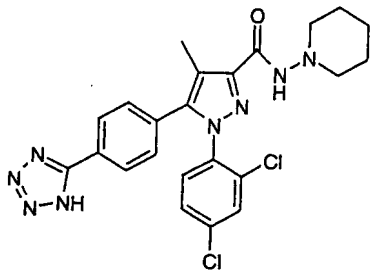
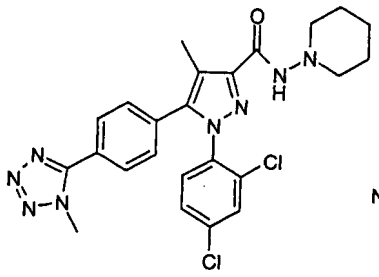
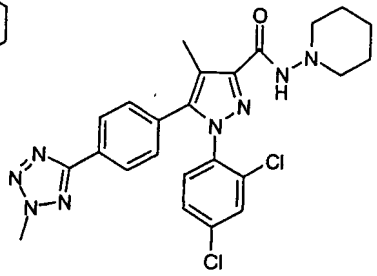

1-20



2-1



2-2



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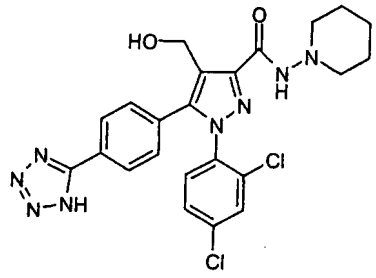

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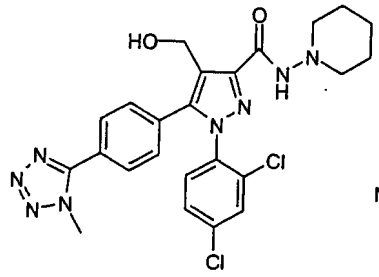

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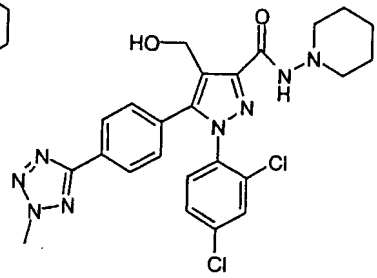

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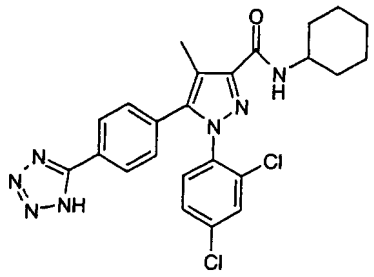

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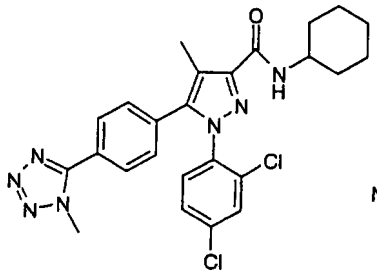

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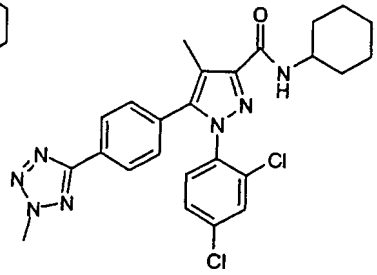

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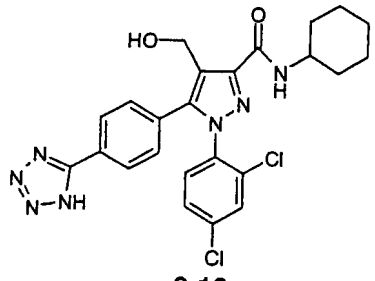
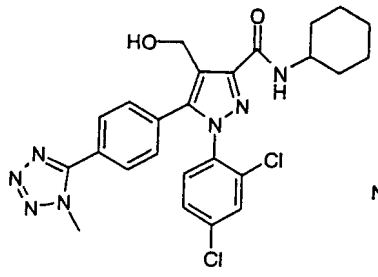
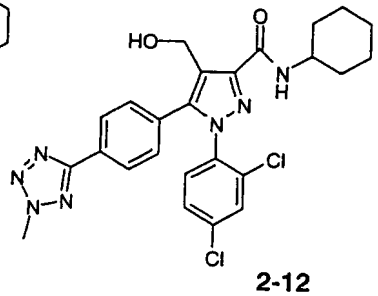


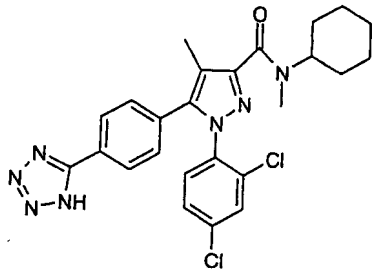
2-10



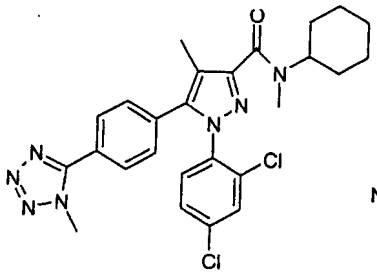
2-11



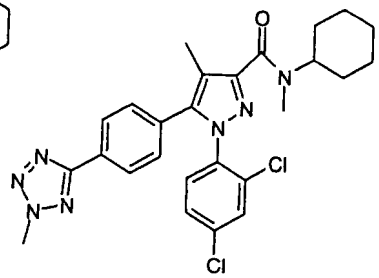
2-12



2-13



2-14



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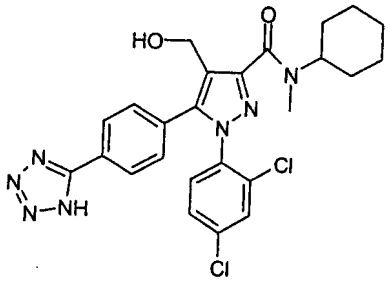

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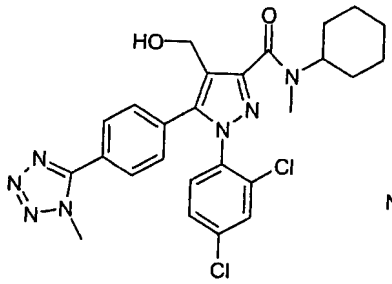

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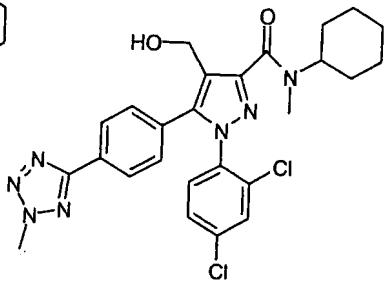

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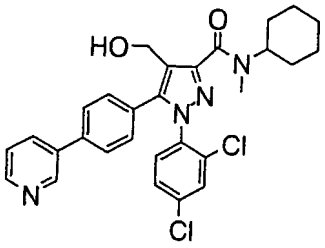

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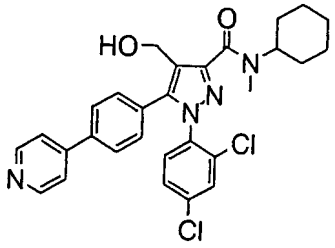

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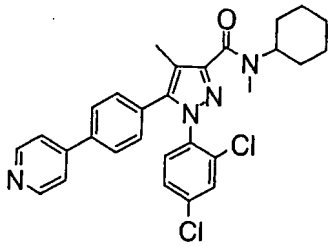

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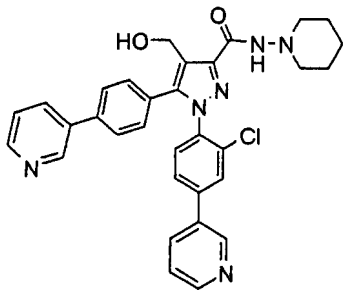

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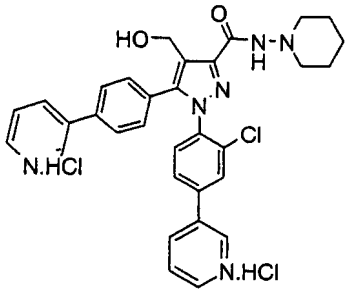

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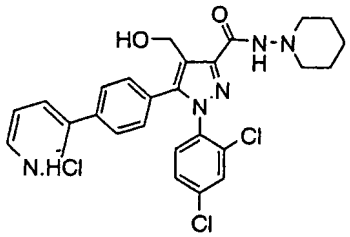
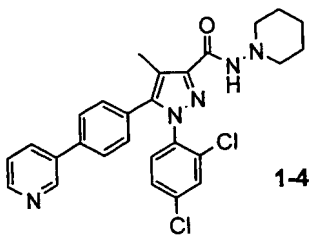
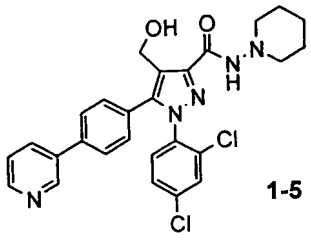


3-21

32. (new) The compound of claim 21, and physiologically acceptable salts thereof, selected from one of the following structures:

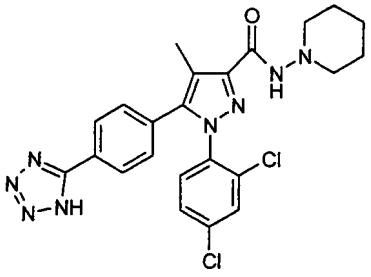


1-4

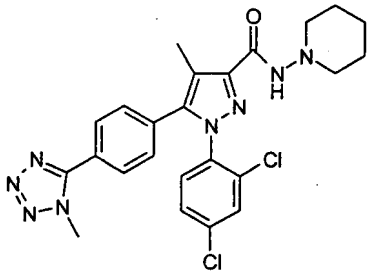


1-5

33. (new) The compound of claim 21, and physiologically acceptable salts thereof, selected from one of the following structures:



2-1



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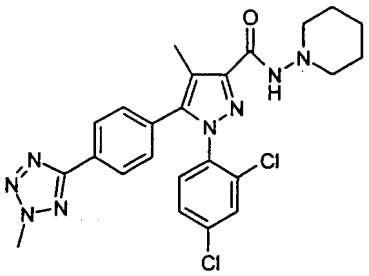

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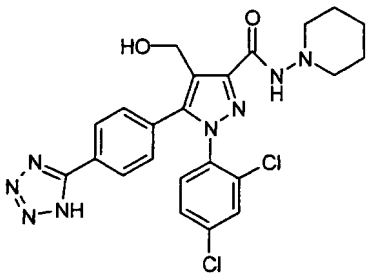
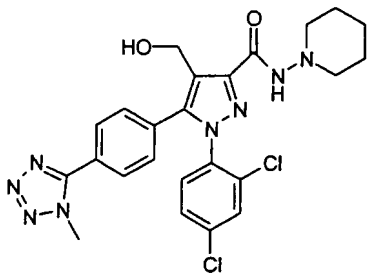


2-4



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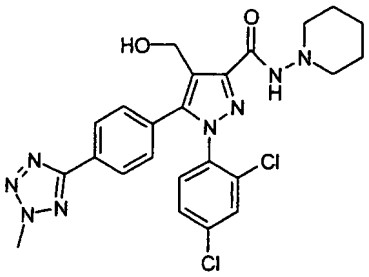

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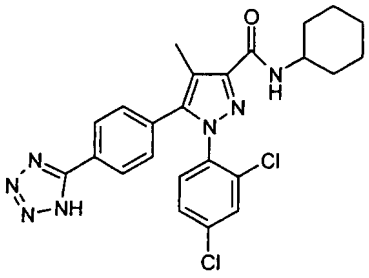

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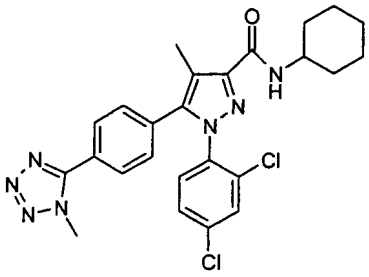

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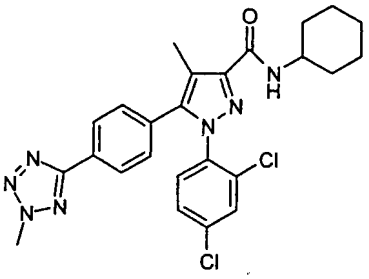

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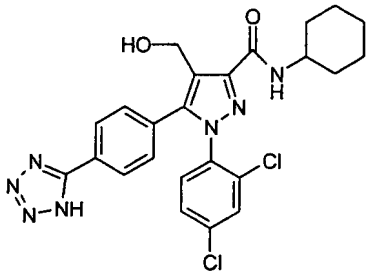

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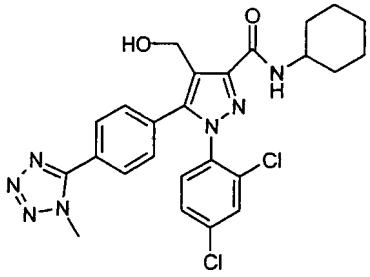

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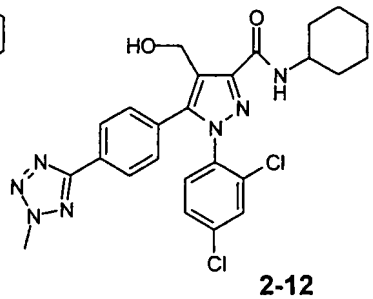

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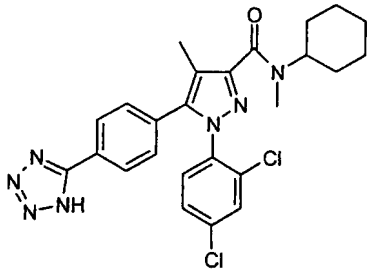

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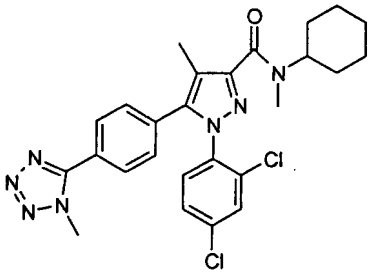

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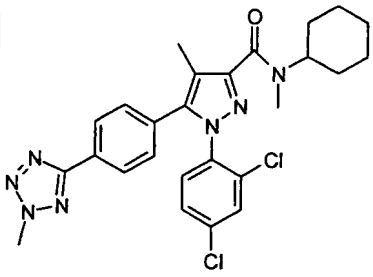
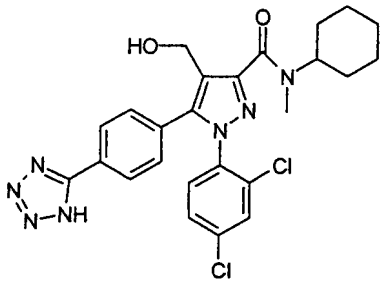


2-15



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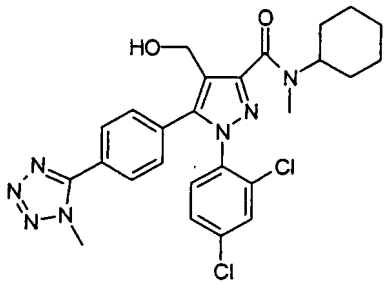
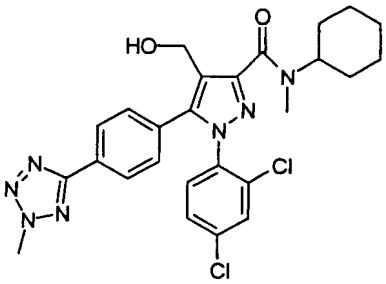
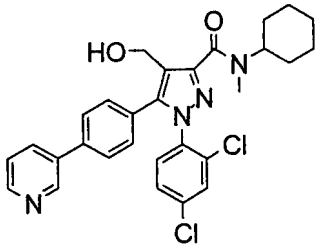


2-17

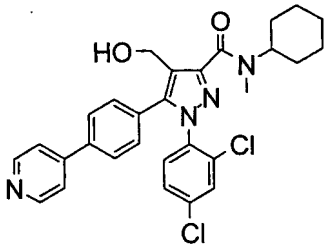


2-18

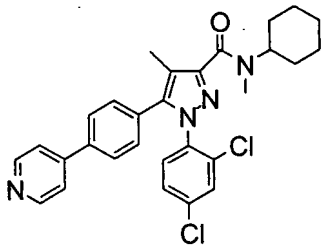
34. (new) The compound of claim 21, and physiologically acceptable salts thereof, selected from one of the following structures:



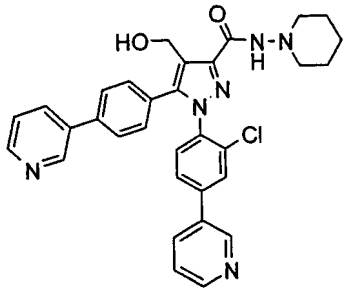
3-4



3-5



3-6



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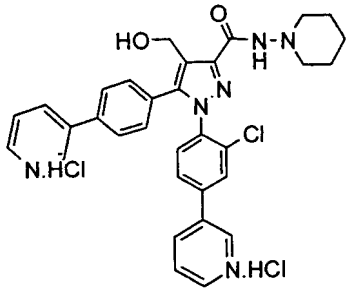
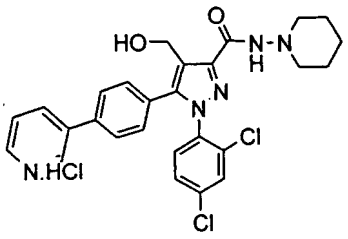
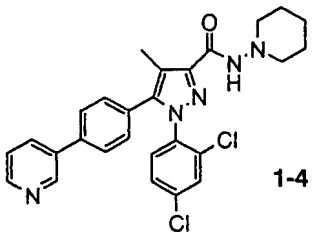


3-20

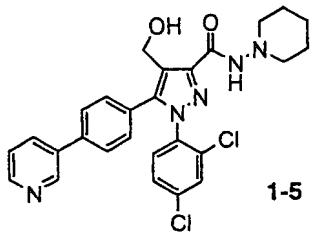


3-21

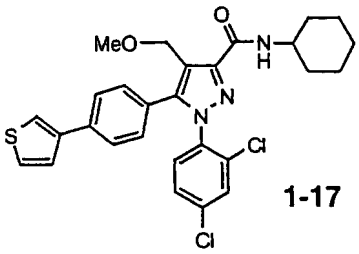
35. (new) The pharmaceutical composition of claim 13 wherein the compound is selected from one of the following structures:



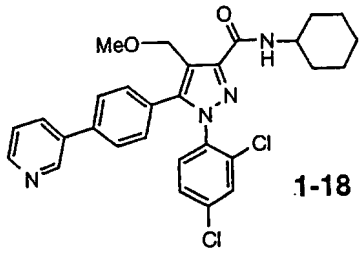
1-4



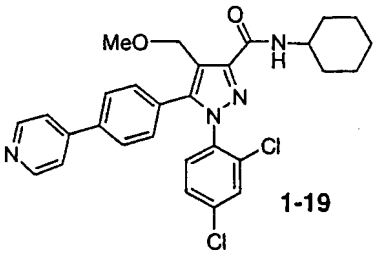
1-5



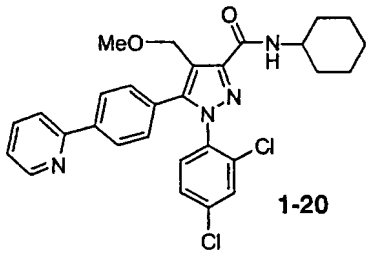
1-17



1-18



1-19



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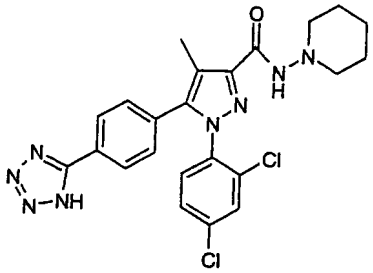
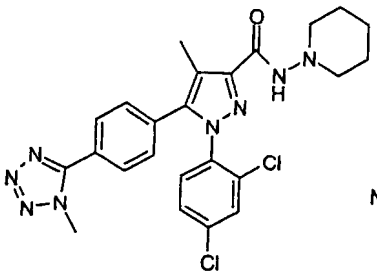
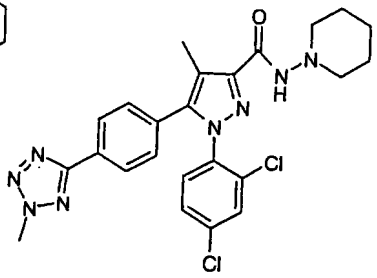


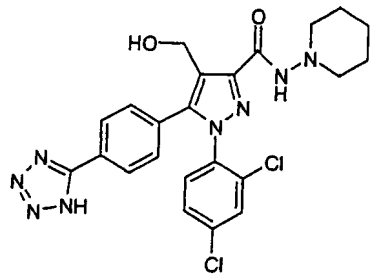
2-1



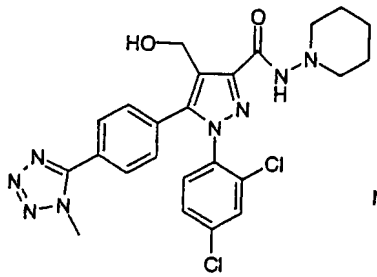
2-2



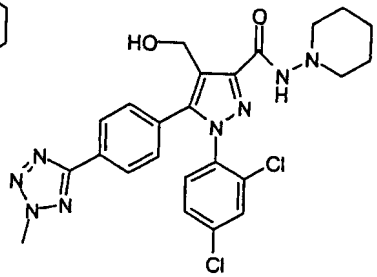
2-3



2-4



2-5



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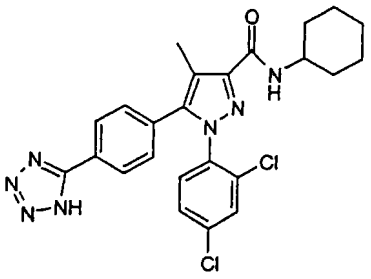
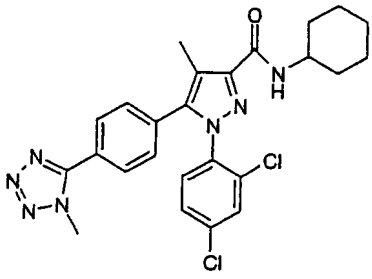
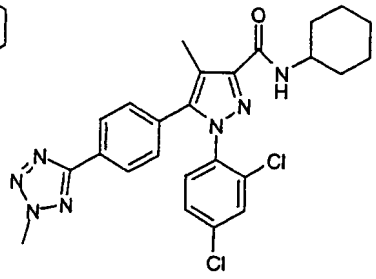
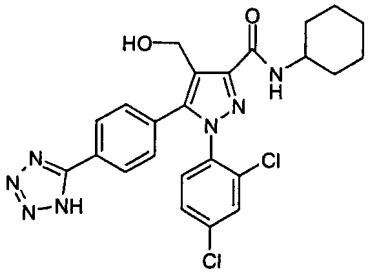

2-7


2-8


2-9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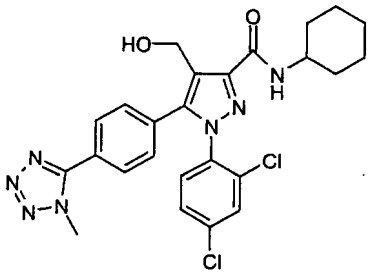
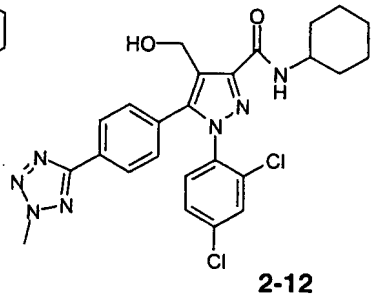

2-11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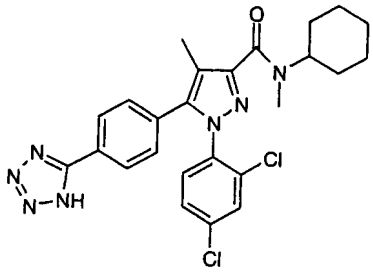
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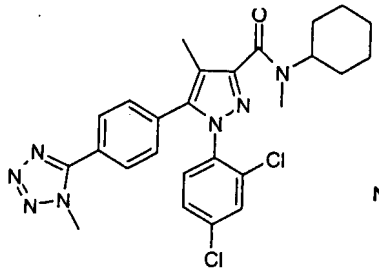
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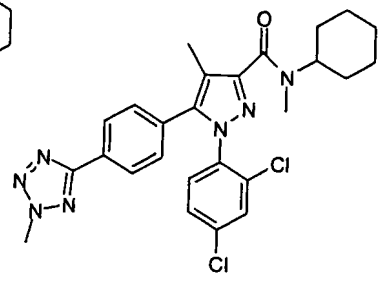
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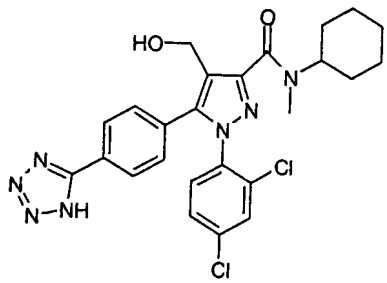
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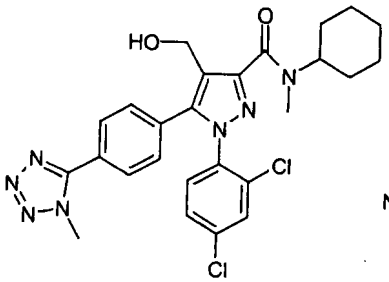
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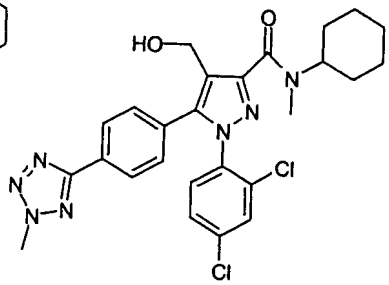
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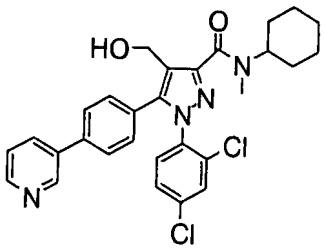

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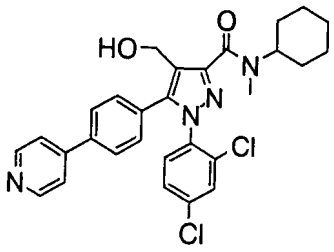

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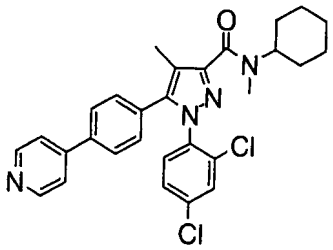

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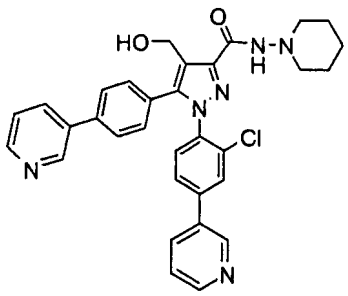

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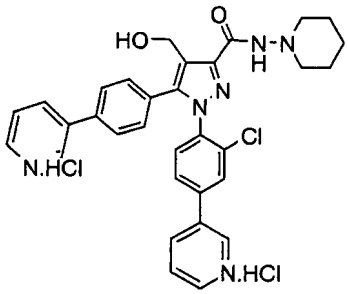

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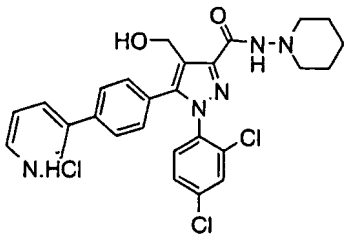

3-21